GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3637
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
CLOSURE OF MINES
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI;LAXMAN GILUWA

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines closed down during each of the last three years, and the current year alongwith the reasons for their closure, State-wise;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to revive these mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of mines in Rajasthan which have been closed as per the Supreme Court`s decision;

(e) whether the State Government have conducted physical verification of these mines;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (c) : As per the information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines(IBM), a sub-ordinate office under the Ministry of Mines,the number of mines closed during each of the last three years and the current year along with the reasons for their

closure is given in the Table below:

State	Number of mines closed during the year				Reasons for closure
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Apr-June, 03)	
Andhra Pradesh	56	22	39	6	Non-viable economics of mining
Goa	1	-	1	1	Non-availability of minerals
Gujarat			426	460 481 0	Non-viable economics of mining
Haryana	-	-	103	-	As per the orders of Hon`ble Supreme Court judgement dated 6.5.2002 and 12.11.2002
Jharkhand	-	1	1	-	Non-viable economics of mining
Karnatka	2	-	1	-	Non-viable economics of mining
Madhya Pradesh	2	4	-	-	Application of statute for revoking of leases
Rajasthan			198	160 144 3	Non-viable economics of mining, Environment and health hazard etc.
Uttaranchal	-	-	2	-	Non-viable economics of mining

Mining is a depleting industry and mines need to be closed when extraction of minerals become unviable. However, where closure is due to lack of demand it is felt that steps taken to liberalise the economy and increase in industrial production would result in increased demand for minerals and make the mines viable.

(d) to (g): Department of Mines & Geology of State Government of Rajasthan has reported to IBM that under Supreme Court Orde dated 30.10.2002, 9891 mines including major and minor minerals were closed. However, after examination and verification of the cases 9779 mines were reopened later.